

FLD

538

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Airfields at Kazanlık and Karlovo

DATE DISTR.

15 October 1953

NO. OF PAGES

6

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

The Kazanlık South Airfield

1. Until 1944, the Kazanlık Military Airport was known as "Simeon Turnovski" Airfield. A bomber training unit is based here.
2. Kazanlık South Airfield is located approximately three kilometers south of the city of Kazanlık, on the east side of the road which, having crossed the Tundzha River, (located approximately one kilometer further south of the airfield), by means of a wooden bridge of 7-8 ton capacity, leads to a thermal baths center. Further on, this same highway branches into two roads one leading to Gorno Cherkovishte (N 42-34, E 25-19), the other going toward the mountains of Sredna Gora.
3. Other airports in the vicinity are:
 - a. A second Kazanlık airfield, actual name unknown, located approximately 1,500 meters northwest of the city of Kazanlık and five kilometers from the airport listed above; and
 - b. Karlovo Airfield, located approximately 45 kilometers west of the Kazanlık South Airfield.
4. Kazanlık South Airfield is approximately 1,500 x 700 meters in size, has a hard sandy surface which easily absorbs rainwater. The surrounding area is flat and cultivated. On the southern side of the airfield, the land is wooded. Since the surrounding area is flat, the possibilities of enlarging Kazanlık Airfield are good. The field is occupied by the Bulgarian Air Force.
5. approximately 30 twin-engine aircraft of an unknown type at Kazanlık South Airfield.

SECRET

25X1

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	EYE	B1	AEC		ORR	x		
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	----	-----	--	-----	---	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

6. Approximately 200-300 officers, noncommissioned officers, and men are stationed at this airfield.
7. Every day, for two-hour periods in the morning and afternoon a flight of 12-15 airplanes was observed. The formation consists of 4-5 flights of three airplanes each. Normally, this formation flies in an east or west direction, toward the cities of Sliven, or Karlovo.
8. The only highway going from Kazanlŭk to the airport crosses the Tundzha River at Gorno Cherkovishte. There is no railway connection. There are no runways at this airfield.
9. Kazanlŭk South Airfield includes the following installations:
 - a. A single concrete, glass-covered hangar, approximately 100 x 30 meters in size, located on the south side of the airfield, approximately 100 meters from the east side of the highway;
 - b. Approximately 10-12 camouflaged buildings, some in masonry and some in wood, located outside the airfield, on the opposite side of the road, located on the southwest side of the airfield; these buildings are located in a fir-tree woods, and are surrounded by a wooden palisade; and
 - c. A Fuel Depot, located between the hangar and the southeast side of the field; it consists of various ditches in which cylindrical barrels are stored; the ditches are covered with branches and boards; fuel is brought to the railway station in tank cars, then transferred to barrels and taken to the airfield by truck.

10.

25X1

searchlight at night, coming from the direction of the airfield.

11. Climactic conditions at Kazanlŭk South Airfield are as follows:
 - a. Rain: intense from late September to early December;
 - b. Snow: from late December to March; and
 - c. Prevailing wind: during the winter, winds are moderate, from the north, with a maximum velocity which does not last longer than 24 hours.
12. The perimeter of the airfield is marked by a series of posts, located approximately 50 meters apart and carrying signs reading "Minavaneto Zabraneno" (Passage Prohibited). Airmen, armed with rifles, are located at key points of the airfield and in the area where there are buildings for personnel and services.

The Kazanlŭk Northwest Airfield (October 1952)

13. At present an unidentified twin-engine bomber unit is based at this airfield. Prior to World War II, this airfield belonged to the old Italian Caproni aircraft factory, located west of the field. Kazanlŭk Northwest Airfield is located approximately 1,500 meters northwest of the center of Kazanlŭk, on the road to Goleno Selo.
14. Other airports in the vicinity are:
 - a. The Kazanlŭk South Airfield, described above, located approximately five kilometers southwest of this airfield; and
 - b. The Karlovo Airfield, located approximately 42 kilometers west of this airfield.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

15. The Kazanluk Northwest Airfield is approximately 1,300 x 600 meters in size and is occupied by the Bulgarian Air Forces. A workshop for repairing and overhauling all types of military vehicles is located at this field.

25X1 16. [redacted] approximately 15 twin-engine aircraft of an unidentified type,
25X1 [redacted] of German or Soviet construction. Approximately 10 officers, noncommissioned officers, and men are at present based at this field.

17. [redacted] this airport [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] was the same as that given for the Kazanluk South Airfield.

18. Access to Kazanluk Northwest Airfield from the city of Kazanluk is had by means of a road which leads to Goleno Selo. Approximately 200 meters from where the road leading to the Zavod #13 (formerly Caproni) Factory crosses the road which parallels the railroad which also goes to Goleno Selo, the road is barred by a wooden barrier. A similar barrier is located where the road adjacent to the airport joins the road for Goleno Selo mentioned above. This tract of road is used exclusively for the airport, and for the airport barracks and is located immediately in front of the airfield itself. There is no railway connection. No runways are located at this airfield.

19. The Kazanluk Northwest Airfield is equipped as follows:

- a. Two concrete hangars, approximately 100 x 50 meters in size, with a single-slope, glass-covered roof, located on the south side of the field;
- b. A hangar, smaller than the two listed above, in which the repair shop for military vehicles is located; (in front of each hangar, there is a concrete apron the same length as the hangar and approximately 20 meters in width); and
- c. Three 2-3 story red-colored constructions varying in size between 40 and 60 meters in length, surrounded by a wooden fence which gives the whole area the appearance of a barracks; these buildings are located on the opposite side of the entrance road to the airport, corresponding to the southwest side of the field, approximately 100 meters from the west side of the Army barracks.

20. In 1945-46, nearly all of the personnel, aircraft, and vehicles located at this field, were transferred to the Lovech airport.

25X1 [redacted]
Karlovo Military Airport

21. This airfield is located approximately 10 kilometers east of Karlovo and about two kilometers south of the railroad leading to Kazanluk. The airfield is active.

- 25X1 [redacted]
- a. The airfield is occupied by the Bulgarian Air Force;
 - b. 60-70 aircraft of an unidentified type were observed;
 - c. An unidentified number of hangars and buildings are located at this field; and
 - d. Near the field, work is in progress on the construction of buildings the use of which is not known.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 4 -

Zavod #13

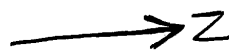
22. This is the former Bulgarian Branch of the Italian Caproni factory, managed by the Italians Abati and Caligaris. Until 1941, the factory produced aeronautical material [redacted]. The factory assembled aircraft which were tested at the adjoining airport. In 1945, the factory was nationalized and was given its new name.
23. Zavod #13 is located approximately three kilometers northwest of Kazanluk, adjacent to the west side of the airfield it formerly used. A road leads from the center of Kazanluk to this factory and borders the east and north side of the airfield.
24. The factory is located in a single large building approximately 200 x 50 meters in size, with a twin-slope roof. The building is colored yellow and is surrounded by a brick wall approximately two meters in height. It employs approximately 1,500 workers in three shifts. [redacted]

LEGEND

1. Unidentified divisional command.
2. Tank and motorized infantry barracks.
3. Transportation Unit and Divisional Workshop for the Repair of Automobiles.
4. Fuel and lubricants depot.
5. "Zavod #10" military establishment.
6. "Roasa" Textile Factory.
7. "Makariana" Textile Factory.
8. Military Airport: a) hangars; b) barracks and other buildings; c) fuel depot.
9. Military Airport: a) hangars; aa) Automobile Repair Workshop; d) barracks and other buildings.
10. "Zavod #13" military establishment.

SECRET

25X1



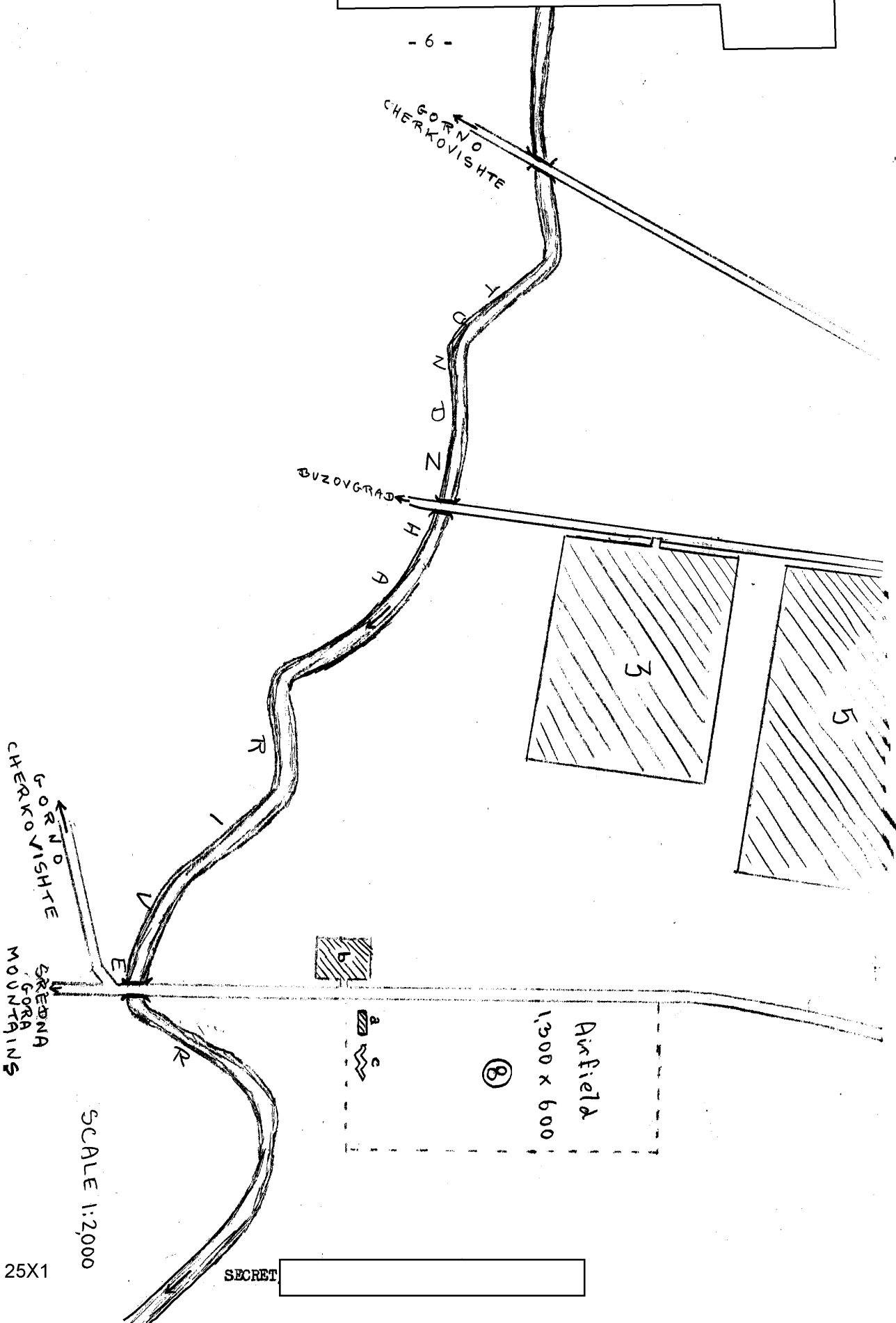
SECRET/

Approved For Release 2005/06/30 : CIA-RDP80-00810A002600540008-6

SECRET

25X1

- 6 -



SCALE 1:2000

SECRET